

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 NRC-05 FEA-01
/145 W

-----051401 220753Z /21

R 210940Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8510
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USUN NEW YORK 718
IAEA/VIENNA 032

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 4049

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, CE

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) ATTITUDE ON NON-
PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

REF: COLOMBO 0414

1. POLITICAL OFFICER IN COURSE OF ROUTINE DISCUSSION ON
OTHER MATTERS WITH DIRECTOR OF UNITED NATIONS DIVISION, MFA,
INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS OF GSL RATIFICATION OF THE NPT. IT WAS
APPARENT THAT NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN SINCE OUR LAST APPROACH
IN FEBRUARY (REFTTEL). IT WAS EQUALLY APPARENT THAT WE ARE
FACED WITH BUREAUCRATIC INERTIA ON THIS PROBLEM, MAKING IT
DIFFICULT TO MOVE IT UP FOR A POLITICAL DECISION. FURTHER,
IF THE MFA WERE NOT TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE POLITICAL
LEVEL ON RATIFICATION OF THE NPT, IT WOULD BE A NEGATIFE
RECOMMENDATION.

2. SRI LANKA AS A SMALL, NON-NUCLEAR POWER IS MORE CONCERNED
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ABOUT RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE AREA, INDIA,
PAKISTAN, INDONESIA, THAILAND, NEPAL, BANGLADESH, AND WHAT
EFFECT RATIFICATION OF THE NPT WOULD HAVE ON THESE RELATIONS.
MFA PRESENTLY SEES NPT AS PRESERVING NUCLEAR POWER TO THE
"HAVES" DENYING IT TO THE "HAVE NOTS." AN ADDITIONAL CONCERN
OFTEN VOICED IN MFA IS THATTHERE ARE LOOPHOLES AND INCON-
SISTENCIES INTHE NPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF IT MIGHT SLOW DOWN

MOVEMENT TOWARD A MORE COMPREHENSIVE WORLD-WIDE DISARMAMENT AGREEMENT.

3. IF THE DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES FURTHER APPROACHES TO THE GSL URGING RATIFICATION OF THE NPT, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PRESENT FRESH ARGUMENTATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BACKGROUND AND DOCUMENTATION ON THE NPT TO ASSIST US IN DEVELOPING PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT AND IN DETERMINING BEST TACTICAL APPROACH. MOST USEFUL WOULD BE ARGUMENTS EMPLOYED SUCCESSFULLY WITH LIKE-MINDED SMALL COUNTRIES.
WRIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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